Claims

We claim:

1   1.   A method of upgrading a computer program on a computer system, the computer system

2   including an instruction processing program, the method comprising:

3   receiving an upgrade object associated with the computer program, the upgrade

4   object including an instruction set adapted for use by the instruction processing program;

5   and

6   executing the instruction set with the instruction processing program.

1   2.   The method of claim 1, further comprising instructing the instruction processing program

2   to execute the instruction set.

1   3.   The method of claim 1, wherein the upgrade object is associated with one or more

2   prerequisites; and further comprising determining if the one or more prerequisites have been met.

1   4.   The method of claim 1, further comprising reporting that the instruction set has been

2   executed.

1   5.   The method of claim 1, wherein the upgrade object is suitable for transmission by

2   electronic mail.

1   7.   The method of claim 1, wherein the instruction set comprises binary instructions.

1   8.   The method of claim 1, wherein the instruction set comprises a script.

1   9.   The method of claim 8, wherein the instruction processing program is adapted to compile

2   and execute the script.

1   10.   The method of claim 1, wherein the upgrade object requires the instruction processing

2   program to be executed by the computer system.

1   11.   The method of claim 1, wherein the upgrade object is not independently executable.

1   12.   A method of upgrading a computer program on a computer system, the computer system

2   including an instruction processing program, the method comprising:

3   creating an upgrade object associated with the computer program, the upgrade object

4   including an instruction set adapted for use by the script processor; and

5   transmitting the upgrade object to the computer system; and

6   instructing an end user to execute the instruction set with the instruction processing

7   program.

1   13.   The method of claim 12, wherein the upgrade object presents the end user with

2   instructions to perform a task.

1   14.   The method of claim 13, wherein the upgrade object prompts the end user to indicate that

2   the task has been performed.

1   15.   The method of claim 12, wherein the instruction set comprises a script and wherein the

2   instruction processing program is adapted to compile and execute the script.

1   16.   A method of upgrading a computer program on a computer system, comprising:

2   (I) installing a script processing program on the computer system;

3   (ii) receiving an upgrade object associated with the computer program, the

4   upgrade object including a script adapted for use by the script processing and a

5   prerequisite field containing one or more prerequisites; and

6   (iii) instructing the computer system to process the installation object, whereby the

7   upgrade object causes the computer system to:

8   determine if the one or more prerequisites have been met; and

9   instructing the script processor to execute the script with the script

10   processor; and

11   reporting that the script has been executed.

1   17.   A computer program product, comprising:

2   (a) a upgrade object configured to upgrade a software program on a computer

3   system having an instruction processing program, the upgrade object including an

4   instruction set capable of causing the instruction processing program to perform one or

5   more upgrade tasks; and

6   (b) a signal bearing media bearing the upgrade object.

1   18.   A method of installing a computer program on a computer system, the computer system

2   including an instruction processing program, the method comprising:

3   receiving an installation object associated with the computer program, the installation

4   object including an instruction set adapted for use by the instruction processing program;

5   and

6   executing the instruction set with the instruction processing program.

1   19.   The method of claim 18, wherein the instruction set comprises a script and wherein the

2   instruction processing program is adapted to compile and execute the script.

1   20.   The method of claim 18, wherein the upgrade object is associated with one or more

2   prerequisites; and further comprising determining if the one or more prerequisites have been met.

1   21.   The method of claim 18, further comprising reporting that the instruction set has been

2   executed.

1   22.   The method of claim 18, wherein the upgrade object comprises a script suitable for

2   transmission by electronic mail.

1   23.   A method of installing a computer program on a computer system, the computer system

2   including an instruction processing program, the method comprising:

3   creating an installation object associated with the computer program, the upgrade object

4   including an instruction set adapted for use by the instruction processing program; and

5   transmitting the installation object to the computer program; and

6   instructing an end user to execute the instruction set with the instruction processing

7   program.

1   24.   The method of claim 23, wherein the installation object presents the end user with

2   instructions to perform a task.

1   25.   The method of claim 24, wherein the installation object prompts the end user to indicate

2   that the task has been performed.

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